Study on Population Growth

6421. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Organisation has made any study on the population growth in India;

(b) the projected population in our country by 2000 A.D. as per the study;

(c) if so, the suggestions made by them to control the population; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (c). Although no specific study on the population growth in India made by any World Organisation has come to Government's notice, the United Nations Population Fund in its exert programme Review and Strategy Development Report on India has discussed India's population policies and programmes and has made certain recommendations. The recommendations include, integrated nature of the population strategy and the placing of family welfare within a wider development context that includes health, poverty alleviation, improvement of socio-economic conditions of women, education, literacy, employment and income generating activities, Review of incentive schemes; institutional mechanisms for inter-soctoral coordination; a comprehensive communication strategy with emphasis on inter-personal communication; better involvement of organised sector and voluntary organisations; emphasis on Mother and Child Health care programme etc.

(b) The World Bank demographic projections estimate that the population of India will be 1,007,122,000 in the year 2000 A.D.

(d) Population Control forms an integral part of the planning process in the country. The new policies relating to population Control aim at adopting a holistic approach. They aim at giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage or girls, attitudinal changes in regard to strong son preference etc. besides improving the performance of the Family Welfare Programme. They recognise the importance of improvement of the quality and out-reach of family welfare services reduction of infant child and maternal mortality, eliciting larger participation of the people in population control efforts and the need to have strong administrative support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Committee of the National Development Council on Population has been set up to take into account the multisectoral dimension of the population issues and to evolve a National Population policy. In the light of these, an Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administrations for imparting a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme. Population control is a thrust area in the VIII Five Year Plan and foremost priority is being accorded to it.

Discovery of Artifacts Near Babri Masjid

6422. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Artifacts found near Babri Masjid"

in Ayodhya appearing in the 'Statesman' dated March 11, 1992; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sherds of Northern Black Polished Ware, fragments of a sprinkler, a spout, damaged parts of terracotta figures, a broken soapstone bowal and a brick datable to early historical period, besides glazed ware of the medieval period, were amongst the finds reported from recent digging near Babri Masjid, Ayodhya, U.P.

Procurement of Wheat and Rice

6423. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the projected procurement of wheat and rice during the ensuring 1992-93 marketing season beginning from April 1, 1992 as against procurement in the previous season;

(b) the estimated procurement of rice during the ongoing 1991-92 marketing season;

(c) whether the procurement of rice has suffered a set back;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether the subject was discussed and directives given to the States in the Conference of State Food Ministers held on 13 March, 1992 in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The procurement of wheat for Central Pool has been 77.52 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 rabi marketing season (April-March). The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been 91.66 lakh tonnes till 3rd April, 1992, during current 1991-92 kharif marketing season (October-September). The procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers being totally on voluntary basis and the procurement of rice from millers/dealers under levy being dependent on the quantum of paddy purchased by them, no definite projection can be made for 1992-93 rabi marketing season.

(b) to (d). The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) during kharif 1991-92 as on 3-4-92 is 91.66 lakh tonnes as against 113.84 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. The procurement during this year is lower mainly due to lesser procurement during in Andhra Pradesh caused by damages to the crop in the State due to cyclonic rains in October-November, 1991 and also due to lesser production in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana which are the major procuring States. It is expected that another 14 lakh tonnes of rice will be procured in the remaining period of kharif season, i.e, from April, 1992 to September, 1992 mainly from Andhra Pradesh (10 lakh tonnes), Tamil Nadu (1 lakh tonnes) and remaining in the rest of States.

(e) Yes, Sir, The Conference of Food Ministers of all State Governments/Union Territories was held by the Minister of State (independent charge) for Food on 14th March, 1992.

(f) The State Food Minister were requested to make all out efforts to maximise procurement of foodgrains (wheat and rice) for Central Pool.